



PATENT

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July 22, 2003   
Date Tamra Miller

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant	: Vishnu K. Agarwal	Attorney Docket No.:	501082.03 (98-0616.02)
Serial No.	: 09/652,841	Group Art Unit	: 2815
Filed	: August 31, 2000	Examiner	: Jose R. Diaz
		Confirmation No.	: 4006
		Date of Notice of Allowance	: April 22, 2003
Title	: DEVICE AND METHOD FOR PROTECTING AGAINST OXIDATION OF A CONDUCTIVE LAYER IN SAID DEVICE		

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Mail Stop Issue Fee  
Commissioner of Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS**  
**FOR ALLOWANCE**

Sir:

In the Examiner's reasons for allowance, he states each independent claim is allowable because the prior art does not teach or suggest a particular element or elements recited in each of the claims. While applicant agrees with the Examiner's indication that the prior art does not teach or disclose the particular elements cited by the Examiner, the undersigned would

like to point out that each claim includes a combination of elements and it is the recited combination, which includes the elements cited by the Examiner, that is not disclosed nor suggested by the prior art.

While the combinations of elements recited in the allowed claims are allowable, the undersigned would like to point out that some or all of these individual elements may be broadened such that the resulting combination is still patentable. Applicant may elect to pursue such claims, or to pursue claims directed to other aspects of the present invention, through a continuation or reissue application, or through a reexamination proceeding.

Respectfully submitted,

DORSEY & WHITNEY LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven Arterberry", written in a cursive style.

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SHA:tlm

Enclosure:

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